



March

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Right in the Palm of Your Hand

by Kristi Swisher

Information provided by John Capri

John Capri volunteered to become the “office guinea pig” for the new Palm V™ Personal Organizer here at Western Federal Lands. John is a Designer for the Oregon Team who was willing to take a risk for the sake of technology. For those of you who may not have a clue as to what a “Palm V™” is, read on.

A Palm V™ is a compact electronic device that really does fit in the palm of your hand. It serves as a Rolodex, calendar, calculator, memo pad, and expense tracker. You can use it to check your e-mail and also program it to “beep” at you via its handy alarm system. There’s a slender black pointer, or stylus, that you use to accurately touch each function (your finger is too thick for the small size of the screen). But don’t let its small size fool you – that’s part of the secret to its success.

The Palm V™ is powered by a lithium battery that generally lasts between two and four weeks. A tiny battery symbol is located at the top of the screen that operates much like your car’s gas tank. When the battery is fully charged, the symbol is “full” or solid black. As the battery starts to lose power, the black recedes, much the way the gauge in your car reads when your gas tank is getting low. And if you don’t remember much else from this article, remember this – *you definitely don’t want to let your lithium battery go dead.* A dead battery means you’ve lost all the information in your Palm V™.



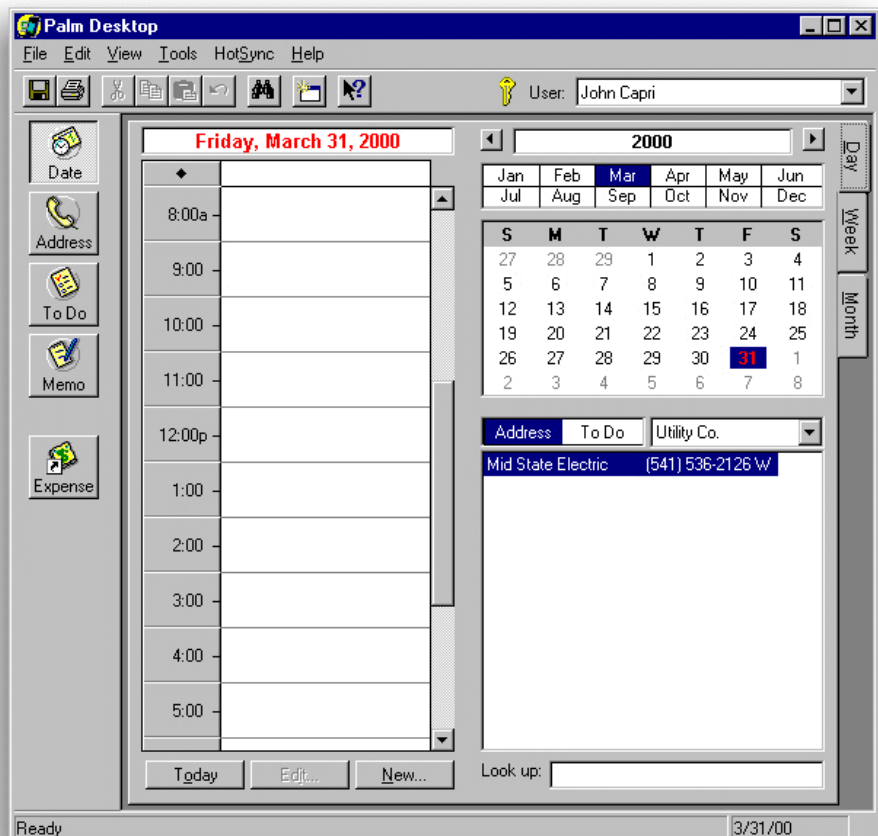
Federal Highway Administration



As catastrophic as that sounds, it's pretty easy to prevent, says John. There are several cradles used to charge the Palm V™. One hooks up to your computer and the other can be used without a computer. You simply slide the Palm V™ into the cradle and let it charge for several hours. John tries not to let the charge on his battery get too low. Unlike some cordless phones that require you to wait until the battery is completely dead before you recharge it, the lithium battery in the Palm V™ has no "memory" so you can charge it as frequently as you wish and long before it reaches the "dead" zone. For additional protection, software such as the Palm Desktop Organizer comes with the Palm V™ to help protect, enter, and print information.

There are at least four models of Palm Personal Organizers. John's model is the Palm V™. There is also a Palm III™, V™-Vx™, and VII™. A higher number means more power and more options. For instance, the Palm V™-Vx™ is an upgrade to the V™. The V™-Vx™ has more memory, performs faster, and allows you to browse the web. The VII™ surpasses the memory of the V™-Vx™ and offers wireless access to the Internet. It certainly pays to buy a newer model rather than upgrade an old one. The Palm V™ costs about \$329 and the V™-Vx™ around \$399, a difference of about \$70. To upgrade the Palm V™ however, costs a whopping \$250! One of the reasons for the hefty price tag is the fact that the company who manufactures Palm V™ products hires an outside firm to provide upgrades, rather than provide those services inhouse.

John's been using the Palm V™ for a little under five months. Although he uses nearly all the features, the one he finds most useful is updating and synchronizing with Novell's GroupWise Calendar. This feature allows him to keep just one calendar at a time and doesn't require that he reenter the information into his computer. This feature does however, need supportive software such as Intellisync™ by Puma Technology to work with GroupWise. HotSync® technology automatically synchronizes your important data between your Palm organizer and the Palm™ Desktop software residing on your PC. Changes you make on either your Palm organizer or PC will appear in both places. HotSync allows John to synchronize his calendar, address book, email messages, and memo pad.



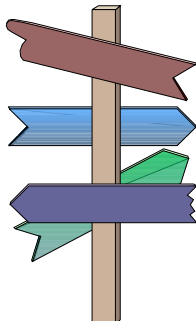
Just like all good electronic devices these days, the Palm V™ comes with a variety of optional equipment, ranging from a protective leather case to a little key board that allows you to type in information. Unlike most devices however, the Palm Organizer actually saves time. The Palm V™ has replaced John's Franklin Planner, as he finds it more efficient and more compact. John can drop the Palm V™ into his shirt pocket or slip it into his pant's pocket, much like a wallet. John feels he saves time by keeping a broad range of information in one place in a format he can easily take anywhere. John also feels he saves time and reduces frustration by keeping one, rather than two calendars.



Although John was leery at first, he's now sold on this little black box. Once he felt secure about a backup for his files, it wasn't more than a couple of weeks before he was operating the Palm V™ with ease.

For those of you who are interested in learning more about the Palm V™, you may contact John at (360) 696-7685, or Brad Roberts at (360) 696-7777. You can also check out the website at <http://www.palm.com/>.

ROAD SIGNS



"Aim above morality. Be not simply good, be good for something."

--Henry David Thoreau

We wish to thank all the individuals who have contributed articles for previous newsletters. If you are aware of a new technology, (or a fresh spin on an old one) please jot down your ideas and submit them via e-mail to me at the address below. Or, if you have an aversion to writing, just donate 15 minutes of your time for an interview (either by phone or in person), and I'll format the information for you. You can then review the article for accuracy (via e-mail or hard copy) and upon publication, you'll become famous in a matter of days. Remember, although we cater to road-related technology, ANY new technology information is welcome.

Please send all submissions to Kristi Swisher - (360.696.7572). Be sure your name, title, and phone number are the way you want them to appear in the article. Articles are subject to editor/ layout approval and may be condensed if space is limited.

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